REMARKS OF MRS. C.E. FOX

June 18, 1976

Conducted by:

Dr. James L. Dodson

--and--

Mrs. Karen Sheridan

Dodson: Now, I wonder Mrs. Fox if you would tell us your full name and tell us how long you've lived here in the valley?

Fox: My married name?

Dodson: Yes.

Fox: Mrs. C.E. Fox.

Dodson: And how long have you lived. .

Fox: Eight years.

Dodson: Eight years?

Fox: Going on nine.

Dodson: I see. Where did you live before then?

Fox: Well, I was born and raised in Kentucky and I lived in Hot Springs, Arkansas for five years. Then I went to Oklahoma. I got married in Oklahoma and had four children there. I lost one. In 1923 we came to California.

Dodson: So you've lived in California since 1923.

Fox: '23. Uh, huh, yeah we came in November. Day before Thanksgiving we got here.

Dodson: Where did you settle first in California?

Fox: In Supulveda. It was Mission Acres then. On Columbus avenue. There was no paved streets anywheres around and when it rained the water

would come down just like rivers in the different streets. Supulveda Boulevard was, uh, uh, what was the name of it?, Saugus [sp ? ]. It was called Saugus.

Dodson: [interupting but inaudible]

Fox: Uh, huh, yeah. It was just a narrow, paved street. Just two lanes. Then they finally changed it to Supulveda.

Dodson: So, you've actually lived in the valley since 1923?

Fox: '23. Uh, huh.

Dodson: But just in this location.

Fox: Just here yeah. Uh, well, we lived in Canoga Park for five years and then we came over here. We sold our home over there and bought a coach and came over here then. We were here eight years.

Dodson: You came as an adult then?

Fox: Oh, yes. No, I had no schooling. My children did. They went to Van Nuys High. All four of them. I lost two children and they were in grammer school. They didn't have a junior high then. It was just from grade school into high school in ninth grade. My youngest daughter, she was in junior, yeah junior, and then she went to high school. Course. the rest of em had graduated then.

Dodson: Was the Van Nuys high then where it is now?

Fox: Yes. The earthquake did quite a bit of damage to it and they had to remodel quite a bit of it.

Dodson: But it is the same location?

Fox: Uh, huh. Yeah.

Dodson: I see.

Fox: And my oldest boy went to, uh, college in Eagle Rock. I can't think of the name of the college over there.

Dodson: Occidental?

Fox: Occidental. Uh, huh. My younger boy went to L.A. Junior, but the girls they didn't go to college.

Dodson: Did you contrast the sort of schooling they got with that that your grandchildren would get?

Fox: Well?

Dodson: Was there any difference?

Fox: I don't know. I kinda think now they're getting better,uh, teaching. I don't know. I know my children, course the graduated, the two boys, the girls didn't. My two daughters, my daughter she was ready to graduate but she lacked

four credits for her diploma. I don't know she just didn't seem to care much for school or take much interest in it or learn too much. So, the boys were both real smart.

Dodson: It's so often that we hear education critized but you feel that it's actually better now than it was then.

Fox: I can't, I can't see much different in it. I have grandchildren and they're in school and they're writing I know. Some of it you can't hardly read. My two girls, they had very poor penmanship but the boys were pretty good. I don't know. The girls just didn't try.

Dodson: Well, maybe they had other interests.

Fox: I think they did. My youngest daughter especially. She was quite a handful.

Dodson: Can you tell us what sort of a social life your children had in the '20's when you came here?

Fox: Well, it was no different, I don't think, then any others. I know my oldest daughter liked to jitter-bug.

Dodson: Were they doing that in the '20's?

Fox: Yes, oh yes. My youngest daughter, she married when she was sixteen. She wasn't quite sixteen. She run off and got married and, uh, she went to

the tenth grade. The education she got. Course, they were gonna go back. She said, "mother, I'm gonna go back." She didn't. So, I don't think there's too much difference in the schools now then they were then.

Dodson: Do you feel that the schools were a little stricter then as far as discipline is concerned?

Fox: Well, they might have been. I don't know. They might have been. I think they were. Seemed to me that they were.

Dodson: Of course, one big difference is that your children probably never came in contact with narcotics.

Fox: No, no, you never heard of anything like that. Then, you never heard of it. Course, they had, well, I don't think they had too much liquor then either because I know when they were in school I never had any trouble with it at all with em. Not with drinking or carousing around.

Dodson: Those were the days before we had Disneyland and Knott's Berry Farm and all that.

Fox: Oh yes.

Dodson: What did they do for amusements?

Fox: Oh dear? Well, they went to the show alot. They loved to go to the show. It didn't cost too much then. And, uh, they'd go to parties. They, uh, the boys had their own cars. And they'd

have dances. That's about all I can think of.

Dodson: When you came here in 1923 how did you happen to choose the valley to settle in?

Fox: My husband had a brother that lived out here. He had a five acre walnut ranch and he sold it for ten thousand dollars and everybody thought that was a big price. So it was wonderful. Then we came out. They'd been here five years and we came out. So, we bought an acre of ground on Columbus for eleven hundred dollars and we built a house there. Then, later on, we built a bigger house. They built a house on Columbus down below where we lived.

Dodson: That would be on Columbus about what?

Fox: On Parthenia and Rayon [sp ? ] street.

Dodson: So, you lived in the west part of the valley?

Fox: Uh, huh. That was the only place we lived. In the west part. We lived in Supulveda, I think, about forty years and then we moved to Canoga Park and then over here.

Dodson: Since you have lived in other states first, what was your first impression of the valley? Did it look nice to you?

Fox: Well, we hit that, when we hit that desert and all through the desert well, I thought, my land if this is California I don't want to stay here. But then after we got over to where there was houses and trees and in the valley here, well, I

changed my mind. I wouldn't leave here. I never did like Oklahoma at all. I just hated it. I lived there nine years and I never did like it. So, I really liked the valley and it's really grown since we've been here.

Dodson: Do you remember your first impressions of it? What you thought as you saw it rather than California the desert?

Fox: Well, I didn't like it at all. It was sort of like Oklahoma where we lived in Oklahoma. Part of Oklahoma's beautiful but where we were there was red dirt. You couldn't have any trees or flowers or anything. The wind blew. So, when we got into the valley here, why, I thought it was wonderful. It was beautiful. I really. . .

Dodson: So you were happy with it?

Fox: Oh yeah. I really liked it.

Dodson: Did it look to you like a rural farm land?

Fox: Oh yes. There was a lot of farming. The ground was all oranges and walnuts and diaries and not too much buildings around. Van Nuys just had a small, few buildings you know. The had just a few stores. And our mail, we didn't have in Supulveda or Mission Acres it was, then we didn't have a post office. We didn't have any stores or anything there. It was so few and our mail came from San Fernando. That was our address.

Rural route. San Fernando.

Dodson: When you went shopping, where did you go?

Fox: Oh, we went to Van Nuys to do our grocery shopping and downtown when we bought clothes or Christmas presents. For things like that we had to go downtown.

Dodson: Was this particular section of Chatsworth primarily walnuts? What did they grow?

Fox: Oh yes. Mostly walnuts, uh huh, and orange trees. There was quite a few orange orchards.

Dodson: I know there were some olive groves. Were they further north?

Fox: Well, they were more around San Fernando. They had some big olive groves and they had packing house there where they processed the olives and canned them. I think they're about all gone now though.

Dodson: I didn't know much about the walnuts. Then there were guite a few. . .

Fox: Oh yes! There were alot of walnuts, yes. Oh! they had a, on Parthenia, they had a big walnut building where they graded the walnuts and got em ready for market and, in fact, I worked there for awhile. Sixteen dollars a week. Nothing taken out.

Dodson: But, on the other hand, that would have bought

quite a bit more I imagine.

Fox: Yeah. Oh, I say it did. Yeah, quite a bit. We were building a new house so I worked for money to buy things for the house. Then they had a rose, what do you call it, the rose house. Where they cut cuttings, you know, and planted them to get the rosebushes and stuff. I worked there for one season.

Dodson: When did the walnut groves begin to disappear would you say?

Fox: Well, when the people began to come in the valley and build houses. Real estate, you know. They had, used to have realestate men advertize, you know, and they'd take you in busses over to show you the land. They'd give you lunch and try to sell the property. That's when it started. From then on it's been growing ever since. It keeps growing. I don't know when it's gonna stop, if ever.

Dodson: Is there still any agriculture of any importance in this west part of the valley?

Fox: Not that I know of. No,I don't think there is.

Dodson: So, it's all gone?

Fox: It's all gone.Yeah, and they're building houses everywhere.

Dodson: It's interesting that Los Angeles once was the single most important agricultural county in the United States. That is, its products

were valued more than any other county.

Fox: Is that right?

Dodson: Yes. Now, I wonder how we would rate. Probably, way down the list.

Fox: Oh, I imagine. Uh, huh, yes. There's no farming of any kind that I know of around. There's strawberries but not a very big patch of them. Over here on Topanga Canyon there's a big place where they have strawberries.

Dodson: I think you were telling me that, uh, when you first came in there were quite a few dairies in the valley.

Fox: Yes! There were quite a few dairies. Jessup [ sp ?] was one of them. Then, there were several others. I can't think of their names now.

Dodson: I think Jessup is still in the dairy business.

Fox: Yes, he's still in the dairy business, uh huh. And then, we have a dairy right over here where they sell milk, eggs, and things. They've been here for a long time but not here in, around here, they've been over in Orange County, over in there. I think there's still quite a few dairies over in Orange County.

Dodson: Do you remember anything about the prices of milk and eggs and that sort of thing?

Fox: Oh yeah. I remember we got milk for ten cents a quart. Yeah.

Dodson: I just don't, we had our own chickens so we didn't buy too many eggs. We had our own chickens.

Dodson: Do you remember any other typical prices of food at that time? What different things cost.

Fox: Well, I know bread was cheap. We'd buy bread at, oh, I used to bake most of my bread but some of it'd be ten cents a loaf and then, course it kept going up, and uh, so many loaves for a quarter. I don't remember just how long that lasted, but I do remember the milk, how cheap it was and then it went up to fifteen cents. It stayed fifteen for a long time.

Dodson: Do you remember anything about the early churches in the valley?

Fox: Well, yes. Supulveda church, do you know where the clubhouse is in Supulveda?

Dodson: No, I don't.

Fox: No, well, it's on Parthenia and Columbus. And it did belong to the farmers. They had their meetings in there and then they sold it to the womens club and then the Methodist Church held services there oh, for several years, and they had a young man who was the preacher and he'd come out every Sunday. He

lived in Los Angeles or someplace and he'd preach and then he'd go back to some other church. They held their meetings there for several years and then they finally built a church on Parthenia, on Grand street, Grand street, uh huh. The Catholics they had, I don't know if they even had a church. I think they used another building and then they built a new Catholic church right back of the Methodist church. And then, course, there's Baptists and I guess, all denominations. I know the Jewish people held their services in our Methodist church for awhile.

Dodson: Do you think people were more religious then? That more of them went to church than they do now?

Fox: Well, I don't know. I don't know. I don't think so. They might have.

Dodson: But you're not, yourself, conscious of any. .

Fox: No. No, I'm not because I know, where I go, the church is usually full on a Sunday. I go down to Topanga Canyon church it's called the Chapel in the Canyon. I'm a Meth, I belong to the Methodist church. I was raised a Baptist then I went to the Methodist church when I got married.

Dodson: That reminds me. Since were speaking of churches, there's a little historic church moved into the Oakwood Cemetary.

Fox: Yes! Uh huh.

Dodson: Do you know about that?

Fox: Well, that was on Topanga Canyon. It was out quite a ways and I think it was a Methodist Church if I'm not mistaken.

Dodson: That was my feeling that's why I . . .

Fox: I think it is and they moved it up, oh, beside the cemetary and they just had their opening here not too long ago. They got it all fixed up. They had it up there and they had it closed. They weren't using it and a bunch of kids broke into it and did alot of damage. They had all that fixed. I don't know if they have services up there or not. I've never heard.

Dodson: Was that the first Methodist church in this area?

Fox: I think it was, uh huh. I think it was. And I don't know just exactly where it was. I remember seeing it. I think it was on Topanga Canyon.

Dodson: Can you tell us anything about things that you witnessed in the valley that were especially important? The '71 earthquake, for instance.

Fox: Well, it shook pretty good. It was six O'clock in the morning. It was dark. That scared the life out of me. I got up and got out of bed and

got outside and my husband just lay there. Then, we had earthquakes before then that I felt too. The one we had in Long Beach was quite a shake.

Dodson: That was before I came here. That was in 1933.

Fox: Yes, uh, it was, uh huh.

Dodson: Did that do any damage?

Fox: Not out where we were but it did alot of damage in Long Beach, yes. People were killed and then it did alot of damage there. Then we had one Tahatchepee [sp?] on over to, on through there. You know where Tahatchepee is? Uh, huh. But we were in Oregon when they had that. We didn't feel that. We didn't know anything about it. It was quite a shake too cause it did alot of damage.

Dodson: You were living in this, uh, mobile home at the time of the '71 quake?

Fox: Yes, uh huh.

Dodson: Did it do any damage to the mobile home?

Fox: Not in here it didn't. Not in here but some places it did. In and around San Fernando is where it was so bad.

Dodson: Yes. And there was no damage to your furniture

either?

Fox: No, nothing. Didn't have one thing fall over or broken or anything. I don't know why because it sure did shake.

Dodson: Apparently then, Chatsworth wasn't very much affected by that quake. They just got the shakes.

Fox: No. Just got the shakes. No, I don't know of anybody that had any damage. It was all around San Fernando and over round over there in Sylmar. Yeah, the Sylmar was the worst.

Dodson: Yes. Yes, I had a friend who lived in Sylmar. Her house was in such bad shape she had to move out.

Fox: Yeah, I had a friend there. Every dish she had was broken. It didn't do too much damage to the house. Then, another friend lived there and it knocked the house off the foundation. In some places the earth raised up and in some places it went down.

Dodson: That's what I understand. Some of the streets had big depressions.

Fox: Yeah, we couldn't go through there for along time because it was so bad.

Dodson: Apparently the effects then weren't felt this far west. . .

Fox: No. No.

Dodson: Apparently, they weren't felt very far south in the valley either.

Fox: No. No, I don't think so. No, I don't think it was too far either direction.

Dodson: Do you remember the effects of World War II?

Fox: Oh yeah. I had two boys in that war.

Dodson: Both come through safely?

Fox: Just fine. Never had a bit of trouble. Never had an injury in any way at all. They were in the Air Corps. Yeah, they went in in '42 and stayed in til it was all over with. I also remember World War I. We were in Colorado then.

Dodson: Oh, is that right? What part of Colorado were you in?

Fox: Trinidad.

Dodson: I've heard of that.

Fox: Oh?

Dodson: I'm from Colorado.

Fox: Oh, are you? Our neighbors next door are from Colorado. They just moved in next door, uh huh,

yeah. We were there in 1918 when it was over with. It was quite a war I tell you. My husband didn't have to go because, uh, he was a farmer then. Not in Colorado. In Oklahoma he was called but he didn't have to go and we had one child and I was expecting another one so he was exempt.

Dodson: Do you remember how the news of Pearl Harbor was recieved here?

Fox: Yes. I was over at the picture show when they announced it.

Dodson: Could you tell us what happened?

Fox: Well, nobody seemed to get excited or anything. They just sat there and waited til the show was over with.

Dodson: Did they interupt the movie and announce it?

Fox: No, they just announced it on the screen. I think that's they way it was. I'm sure it was.

Dodson: You're the first person we've talked to that was in a movie at the time.

Fox: Is that right? Yeah, I was in the Van Nuys movie.

Dodson: Apparently, there wasn't too much excitment.

Fox: No. People never, I guess they didn't expect anything like that because nobody seemed to be

excited or scared or anything like that. It was, uh, pretty bad.

Dodson: Can you tell us if there was any nervousness here in the valley for fear that the valley would be bombed during the war or anything like that?

Fox: No. I don't remember anything. Oh, I do too! They'd get out reports, you know, that the Japanese were doing this or doing that, putting poison in our water. My husband was a quard at the aquaduct. He had to carry a gun and patrol different, a certain percent of the aquaduct, you know. He, all through the war, was a guard.

Dodson: There was a story that a Japanese plane flew over Los Angeles. Do you remember that?

Fox: Oh, yes. I remember that. I worked over at Santa Monica, uh, what was that big plant that was over there?

Dodson: MacDonnel Douglas? [ sp ? ]

Fox: Yes. It was just Douglas then. I know we had to go out, slide out, one night outta the building and he said the plane was flying around. I don't know if it was or not.

Dodson: No, we've never been able to really figure out if there was a Japanese plane or not.

Fox: No, no.

Dodson: Was there any nervousness lest the coast be bombed?

Fox: Oh, I think there was. I think there was. I know you'd hear about. Well, you'd hear so much. It wasn't true. Course, you didn't know then whether it was true or not but yes, there were quite a bit of rumours flying around.

Dodson: Was this a new experience for women to be working in the aircraft plants?

Fox: Oh, yes! Uh huh, yes, it was.

Dodson: Can you tell us anything about your experiences in that type of thing?

Fox: Well, we didn't get too excited or too upset over it. We, uh, everything seemed to be, you know, I worked at night. I worked the graveyard shift. Course, I had, uh, my youngest daughter was at home. She was in school and that was the reason I worked the graveyard shift, so I could be home when she was there. I don't remember being scared or anything.

Dodson: How did the men accept the women workers when they weren't accustomed to them?

Fox: Well, they seemed to be o.k. I never noticed any different. You know, I think they thought it was alright. Just alot of women at work, you know.

Dodson: What sort of work did you do?

Fox: I worked on the, uh, uh, television. . .

Dodson: Radar?

Fox: No, it wasn't radar it was just a thing that fit over the radar or over the, uh, television. No, not television. Radio's. Radio controls is what they were called. Yeah.

Dodson: Where were you when the war ended? When you got news of the Japanese surrender?

Fox: Let's see. Gosh, you know, I don't remember. I don't remember. I would say it was in a show but it couldn't have been in a show both times.

Dodson: I was gonna say, I guess you were quite a movie fan.

Fox: I used to go all the time. I don't go anymore though. I haven't gone to a show in I don't know when.

Dodson: You can't quite remember.

Fox: No. I just can't remember.

Dodson: I happened to be on a redcar riding down Grand Boulevard in Glendale.

Fox: Is that right?

Dodson: That's the first I knew when I saw the celebration in the street.

Fox: Yes. I just can't remember that at all. I wasn't working then. I worked a year and a half that's all I worked. My daughter cut her foot. She was running around barefoot and she stepped on a broken bottle and cut her foot real bad and I had to quit and stay home. But I worked long enough and now I get Social Security.

Dodson: Well, that was good.

Fox: Yes. A year and a half. You have to work longer than that now.

Dodson: Yes, I think those that retired fairly soon after it started didn't have to work as long.

Fox: No. I worked eighteen months.

Dodson: Can you think of anything else that is important in the history of the valley? Earthquakes or wars or anything else like that that made a great difference?

Fox: Well, when we had that shoot-out here over the, uh, Hearst, you know. That outfit.

Dodson: Oh, you mean that Manson thing?

Fox: Manson. Manson thing. And where the negroes live.

Dodson: Pacoima?

Fox: No.

Dodson: Watts.

Fox: Watts. When they had that. That was kinda scary and they showed it on television. You weren't here then.

Dodson: Yes, I was here then.

Fox: Was you. Uh huh.

Dodson: Course, those things didn't actually happen in the valley. We haven't had many things. . .

Fox: No. No, there hasn't been very much happen in the valley that I can remember. Course, there's been alot more happening lately. Those big fires and all that.

Dodson: We did have this big chemical fire just a few months ago.

Fox: Yes. And the one over on uh, Venice. Over in there. That was terrible.

Dodson: Did that gas from the chemical . . . .

Fox: No. No, we didn't know anything about it til the next day. Heard it on the news the next morning, I guess.

Dodson: Can you think of anything, well, you mentioned that we have had some other things in the valley.

This reminds me of the crime situation. Do you see any difference there between the way it is now and the way it was in 1923?

Fox: Well? Oh yes! It's alot worse now. It's ten times worse than it was then. You never heard of anything like goes on now, then. We never had any, we never even locked our house. Never even had a key to the doors. We had keys but we never used em unless we were going on a trip or something like that. I think we did then. I'm not sure.

Dodson: Well, at that time would you have been, would you have felt free to take a walk at night?

Fox: Oh yes! Uh huh. Yeah. Yeah, you never thought of any trouble or anything or anybody holding you up or attacking you or anything like that. You never dreamed of anything like that.

Dodson: Now, how would you feel at the present time, 1976?

Fox: I, I wouldn't want to go out. I do here in the park. Course, it's all lit up. I do on some evenings get out and walk around by myself. I'm not afraid because there's houses always close, but I don't get out of the park. No. No, I wouldn't go out of the park. No.

Dodson: Then you would feel that's quite a change?

Fox: Yeah. Oh yeah. I'd say it is. It sure is.

Dodson: Everyone seems to feel that way. Everyone we've

visited feels that there's been a great change in that regard.

Fox: Is that right?

Dodson: Let's see. You were here during the time of the depression too weren't you?

Fox: Yes. Oh, yes. 1929.

Dodson: Did that affect you?

Fox: No, not at all. My husband worked right on through and he got his wages. We didn't have any trouble at all. Just, uh, everything went along very smooth.

Dodson: It's been my impression from the interviews that most of the people we've talked to, at least, were not affected. We interviewed one person who lost his job during the depression but most of them here in the valley seem to have come up through it pretty well.

Fox: There was quite a few that was layed off where my husband worked in the city but he was never layed off.

Dodson: Were his wages reduced?

Fox: No, I don't think they were. Course, they weren't very high then, you know. They were very small to what they are now. [tape stopped]

Sheridan: Mrs. Fox, what do you think is the greatest change in modern technology?

Fox: I wouldn't have the least idea.

Sheridan: Back in the 1920's, when you first got here, did you have inside bathroom facilities?

Fox: Oh yeah. We had a bathroom and a toilet and a wash basin.

Sheridan: Did you have a refrigerator?

Fox: Uh huh. Yeah. Just a second, no. We had an icebox. An icebox. Yeah.

Sheridan: When you arrived here what was the general condition as far as minority rights? Were there any problems with the Spanish or the Blacks?

Fox: Oh? None at all that I knew of.

Sheridan: Did any of your children have any problems in schools?

Fox: No. Just my youngest daughter was kind of a hand full. She used to put flowers in her hair, you know. When she'd go to school the teacher would take them away from her. Then, I'd take em away from her at home. I don't know how she got em but she did and the first thing I knew was that she had em back in. Only one that I had any trouble with.

Sheridan: What do you think about the differences in the dress codes? Do you think that the clothes you wore back in the 1920's were more convienient or prettier or what are your feelings?

Fox: Well, I think what they wear now is alright. I don't see anything wrong with it. Some of em are a little bit exposed but it don't bother me.

Dodson: You don't feel that there's anything to choose between the fashions worn in your day and now?

Fox: Well, I think they're more convient now and better than they were then. We used to always have long sleeves and dresses that were down to our ankles and now they have em up above the knee's, some of em. The younger people dress different than we did.

Sheridan: What do you think about the new morality?

Fox: Well, I think it's just too bad. [laughs]

Dodson: Could you go a little further and tell us what you mean?

Fox: Well, I don't know if I should say or not, but I don't believe in this living together not being married. Course, I'm old=fashioned and I'm not used to anything like that. Although, I've had it in my family but I couldn't help it. So, I think people just go a little too far and there

are too many divorces now. Course, I think some people'd be better off it they had divorced but for me to say, I don't know.

Sheridan: Mrs. Fox, what would you regard as the most important event in the valley history? The bringing in of the water or some of the industries, or what?

Fox: Well, we had the water when we came here. The Aquaduct was, the San Fernando Aquaduct. And what was the other question?

Sheridan: Since you came in 1923, I'm thinking, there's probably been alot more industry.

Fox: Oh yeah. The car plant in Van Nuys, the, uh, what's the name of it?

Dodson: The Chevrolet plant.

Fox: The Chevrolet plant wasn't here and there wasn't near as many business buildings. Very few business buildings. When we came here there was hardly anything in Van Nuys. I know Moore's had a store there. It was a dry goods store and that was about the only store where you could buy anything. Then there was, gradually, Penny's came in. They had one, just a little tiny, wasn't as big as this room when they first came. Then the markets came in and we eventually had two big markets in Van Nuys. They ere built after we came to California.

Sheridan: You say you were a Methodist when you first came out to the valley after your marriage. Was Senator McClay still a Methodist minister when you came in the valley?

Fox: I don't remember him.

Sheridan: Apparently not. Do you know, personally, any of the pioneers or their decendants that may still be living in the valley.

Fox: Well, I know one family, the Plummbers [sp?]. I think you talked to Mr. Plumber over at the picnic. He was born here. Then, there's other people that came about the time we did. Some came sooner than we did but he's the only one that I know of that was born here. His wife wasn't born here. She was born in Nevada, I think it was. He raised a family here so that's about the only one that I know of.

Dodson: Mrs. Fox, I wanted to ask you how you and the other people feel around here feel about all the earthquake predictions we've been getting? Are you worried about that? Are your friends worried?

Fox: Yeah. Well, I'm sure they are cause I know it kinda worries me sometime when I go to bed. I think maybe I should lay my robe out or something to grab when I get outa bed and come outside. I don't know why they do it. I think it's terrible.

Dodson: You don't feel that because nothings happened here during the last two earthquakes that nothing will

in the third one either?

Fox: And you know, we don't have any escape from the backway here. In case there was any fire, we'd have to crawl out the window. The windows up kinda high, you know. I don't know how I'd get out of it.

Dodson: Oh, you have only one door in the uh. . .

Fox: Well, there's the door here and the kitchen door over there but our bedrooms are way in the back end of the coach so sometimes I think about it.

Dodson: So you feel that this is something that valley people are conscious of? The danger?

Fox: Well, I don't know about other people but I know that I am and I think there should be a law that they have to have an opening in the back. In case of fire or earthquake or something like that. Don't you think they should?

Dodson: Yes. You've read about this Palmdale Blister then?

Fox: Yes. Uh, huh. Yeah. Have you seen it?

Dodson: No, I haven't but I imagine that a person just driving through wouldn't be conscious of it.

Fox: I imagine so. You'd have to know just where it is.

Dodson: I just wondered if, uh, people in this area thought about that and were a little concerned over the danger?

Fox: Yeah, well, I think they are. Although, I haven't heard too many speak of it, talk about it, but I'm sure they think about it, you know. Wonder.

Dodson: I'm not sure whether any fault lines go through this particular area.

Fox: I don't think so. No, I've never heard of it. I've never heard of it.

Dodson: It is true, I think, that in the '71 quake most parts of the valley weren't very much affected.

Fox: Um hum. No, I think most of it was over in An Fernando and that way. I never, well, now, the schools, Canoga Park High School was damaged. Course, it was an old building. Then, the Van Nuys High School was damaged and quite a few other schools were damaged. I don't think this one over here was. The Chatsworth High School. It might have been.

Dodson: Yes. The damage then was as far south as Van Nuys?

Fox: Yes. Uh huh. It did quite a bit of damage, I think, around different schools.

Dodson: I guess then it depends on some extent upon the type of construction.

Fox: I imagine. I imagine, and they were old buildings too. They were, I don't know, built before we came to the valley.

Dodson: Can you tell us anything about the historical sites in this area that you have mentioned? That is, buildings or monuments?

Fox: Well, nothing but the, uh, San Fernando Mission. It was damaged quite badly. I guess you knew that. Yes. It was closed for quite a while before they opened it up again.

Dodson: You feel that its appearence is different now than before the earthquake?

Fox: No, not too much. I don't think it is. Do you?

Dodson: [somewhat inaudible] I don't remember.

Fox: Yes, well, I think most of the front end of it is new. That was destroyed, and quite a bit of the other buildings too. I know that the last time I was there, it's been, oh, about a couple of years, there was some of it they hadn't restored yet. It was still down. Let's see, ± that's about the only building I know of that was old. There aren't any I can think of?

Dodson: There aren't any around Chatsworth that you know of?

Fox: Well, I think there's some old dwellings but nothing that would amount to anything. I think

they had on t.v. one night, they were showing some of the old dwellings but I don't remember where they were or what they were.

Dodson: [inaudible]

Fox: [inaudible]. . . . It's been a year, maybe two, since they had that thing on t.v. about the old buildings, the old places and. . .

Dodson: Can you think of something that we haven't asked about?

Fox: After you leave I probably would. Nothing I can think of now.

Dodson: Was there anything funny that has happened to you since you got here in 1923?

Fox: [response inaudible]

Dodson: Well, thank you very much Mrs. Fox.

You have been listening to an interview with Mrs. Katey M. Fox. The interview was conducted by Dr. James L. Dodson, curator of the Los Angeles Valley College Historical Museum and by Mrs. Karen Sheridan, deputy to Dr. Dodson in conducting the interview. The date is June 18, 1976. Thank you.